

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-5 and 7-9 as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1-5 and 7-9 showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Amended) A recording method comprising:

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a step of ejecting onto a recording material ink having a K_a value of not more than 3 (ml.m⁻².msec^{-1/2}); and

a step of applying to the ink deposited on the recording material, a processing liquid having a K_a value of not less than 5 (ml.m⁻².msec^{-1/2}) to insolubilize a coloring material in the ink inside the recording material,

wherein the processing liquid is applied to the ink after the ink is deposited on the recording medium and after a rapid swell start point ts passes after penetration of the ink into the medium.

2. (Amended) A recording method comprising the steps of:

ejecting onto a recording material ink having a K_a value not less than 1 (ml.m⁻².msec^{-1/2});
then

applying heat to the ink; and

applying to the ink a processing liquid having a K_a value not less than 1 (ml.m⁻².msec^{-1/2}).

3. (Amended) A recording method comprising the steps of:

ejecting to a recording material ink having a K_a value not more than 1 ($\text{ml.m}^{-2}.\text{msec}^{-1/2}$)

and having a penetration property that increases with heat; then

applying heat to the ink; and

applying to the ink a processing liquid having a K_a value not less than

1 ($\text{ml.m}^{-2}.\text{msec}^{-1/2}$).

4. (Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1 or 3, further comprising the step of

applying heat to a reaction product of the ink and the processing liquid after said processing liquid applying step.

5. (Amended) A recording method according to Claim 4, wherein the K_a value is not

more than 5 ($\text{ml.m}^{-2}.\text{msec}^{-1/2}$).

6. (Unamended) A method according to Claim 1 or 5, wherein the ink contain pigment.

7. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1 or 6, wherein the ink includes a black ink

and a color ink, wherein ink having a K_a value of not more than 3 ($\text{ml.m}^{-2}.\text{msec}^{-1/2}$) is the black ink, and after application of the processing liquid, color ink is deposited.

8. (Amended) A recording method comprising the steps of:

depositing ink containing a coloring material having a polarity onto a recording material;

and then

applying to the ink, a processing liquid having a polarity opposite from that of said coloring material after a rapid swell start point ts after penetration of the ink onto the recording material, so that the coloring material in the ink is insolubilized by the processing liquid at least inside the recording material.

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9. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1 or 8, wherein the ink and the processing liquid are ejected to the recording material by generating a bubble by application of thermal energy to the ink and to the processing liquid.

[Please add Claim 10 as follows:]

--10. A recording apparatus comprising:

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ink ejecting portion for ejecting onto a recording material ink having a Ka value of not more than 3 (ml.m⁻².msec^{-1/2});

a processing-liquid ejecting portion for applying to the ink deposited on the recording material, a processing liquid having a Ka value of not less than 5 (ml.m⁻².msec^{-1/2}) to insolubilize a coloring material in the ink inside the recording material,

wherein the processing liquid is applied to the ink after the ink is deposited on the recording material after a rapid swell start point ts passes after penetration of the ink into the medium--.
